

**Thursday and Saturday Morning Guided Hikes: 9:00 – 11:00**

Meet at Art Smith Trailhead (just south of Visitor Center driveway on the west side of Highway 74) at 8:45. Hikes will be led only on the Art Smith Trail (moderate – strenuous) between April 7<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> due to expansion of Visitor Center Parking Lot.

**Star Party – Saturday, April 5, 2014 – 8 pm to 10 pm**

The Astronomical Society of the Desert will conduct “sky tours” and direct observations of the night sky through telescopes and giant binoculars.

**Location:** Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, Palm Desert

**Host:** Astronomical Society of the Desert. For more details or information visit their website at [www.astrorx.org](http://www.astrorx.org)

**Cactus Spring Trail to Horsethief Canyon Hike – Saturday, April 12, 2014 – 8 am to 2:30 pm**

**Location:** Meet at the Art Smith Trailhead at 8:00am to caravan to the Cactus Spring and Sawmill Trailhead, about 12 miles from the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center. Estimated return time is 2:30 pm.

Within Pinyon pine and juniper woodland at a 4,000 ft. elevation, the trail will take you through a variety of transitional habitats exhibiting a wonderful diversity of plant and animal life as well as geology which reveals an ancient and tumultuous tectonic past. Interpretive hike rating is moderate to strenuous due to undulating and sometime rugged topography accounting for about 1,000 ft. of elevation gain. Approximately 5 - 6 miles round trip. For more information call 760-862-9984 or check the Friends of the Desert Mountains Facebook page.

**RSVP:** 760-862-9984

**Earth Day Bird-a-Thon- Century Run Bus Tour – Friday, April 25, 2014 – 7 am to 4 pm**

**Location:** Meet at parking lot of the McDonalds restaurant, corner of Ramon Rd. and Varner Rd. on the north side of the 10 freeway. Arrive at 7:15 am for an on-time 7:30 am departure.

**Guide:** Kurt Leuschner, Professor of Natural Resources, College of the Desert

Whether you are a beginner or a serious birder, enjoy spectacular desert and mountain scenery on a guided bus tour to well-known birding and nature hotspots in and around the Coachella Valley. Water and snacks will be provided. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy at one of our stops along the way. Before the day is over we hope to find 100 different bird species, have lots of fun and raise money for conservation.

**RSVP:** (760) 862-9984

**Fee:** \$50 per person

**Star Party – Saturday, May 10, 2014 – 8 pm to 10 pm**

The Astronomical Society of the Desert will conduct “sky tours” and direct observations of the night sky through telescopes and giant binoculars.

**Location:** Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, Palm Desert

**Host:** Astronomical Society of the Desert. For more details or information visit their website at [www.astrorx.org](http://www.astrorx.org)

**Spring Wildflowers on the Pacific Crest Trail – Saturday, May 17, 2014 – 8 am to 1 pm**

**Location:** Pacific Crest Trail north from Highway 74 near Garner Valley

This stretch of the PCT did not burn in the Mountain fire. At this elevation of about 5,000 ft. we will see a sometimes stunning display of annuals and perennials in bloom in this chaparral and mixed conifer woodland. We will also stop at a couple of locations along the highway from the visitor center to the PCT to observe the plant community diversity through the transition from rain shadow desert to the east, and the chaparral, inter-montane coastal habitat to the west. Interpretive hike radius is easy and approximately 2-3 miles. Elevation gain of 100 ft. For more information call 760-862-9984 or check the Friends of the Desert Mountains Facebook page.

**RSVP:** 760-862-9984

## **Other Walks and Hikes**

**Hike around the Coachella Valley with Philip Ferranti; meet at 9 am**

**Saturday, April 12, 2014**

Garner Valley (Easy, 5 miles) Meet at the Art Smith Trail parking lot off of Highway 74 about three miles south of the intersection of Highway 111 and Highway 74 in Palm Desert, California

### **Hikes**

Meet at the La Quinta Cove East parking lot.

**Tuesday, April 8, 2014** Explore the Cove – Bill Baker

**Saturday, March 29, 2014** Cove to Lake Cahuilla – Bill Baker Moderate

**Tuesday, April 12, 2014** Bear Creek Wash – Bill Baker/Katie Barrows Easy, 2-3 miles (Three trails walk)

### **Nature Walks – Hikes – Kids & Families Walks – 8 am**

All walks begin at the Shade Shelter on the Bear Creek Nature Trail at the corner of Calle Ensenada and Avenida Montezuma in the La Quinta Cove.

**Saturday, April 19, 2014** Why do we live here? Nature, geology and the Settlement of La Quinta.

**Saturday, May 17, 2014** Bring your local history knowledge to share with others at an exchange.